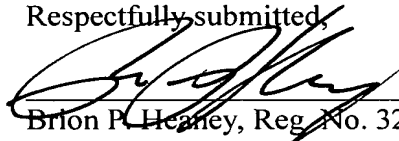


**REMARKS**

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee, and to amend the claims to use language in accordance with conventional US practice. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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